

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY	USSR/Iran	REPORT NO.	[REDACTED] 25X1A
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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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SOURCE

1. On 10 December 1951 a new contingent of Soviet frontier guards was transported from Baku (N40-23, E49-52) to Lenkoran (N38-45, E48-50) by train. The number of troops in the contingent was not known. They remained in Lenkoran for ten days, during which a series of orientation conferences for the higher echelon officers was held. The new contingent was then separated and assigned as replacement troops to the various Soviet frontier posts along the Iranian frontier in the Astara area.
2. On 22 December 1951 the new contingent of frontier guards assumed control from the troops they were replacing, according to the following order of battle:
 - A. Soviet Astara: First Company from an unidentified MGB infantry battalion was assigned as a frontier guard unit. Area of jurisdiction: Astara (N38-28, E48-52) to Reza Baghi frontier post. One company, possibly Second Company, equipped with machine guns, anti-aircraft guns, and four tanks, was held in reserve, with no actual contact with the Iranian frontier.
 - B. Astara-Kalaputi: Third Company from an unidentified MGB infantry battalion was assigned as a frontier guard unit. Area of jurisdiction: Lezhi, Kalaputi, (N38-48, E48-25) Qizl-Asar, and Omstomnok frontier posts.
 - C. Astara-Kaluz: Fourth Company from an unidentified MGB infantry battalion was assigned as a frontier guard unit. Area of jurisdiction: Kaluz to Alikeran (N38-45, E48-05)-Seyidlar.
 - D. Putesar: A mixed company, composed of cavalry, infantry, and artillery, was presumably held in reserve four kilometers north of Kalaputi frontier post in the Putesar area.

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- E. Kaluz: A mixed company, composed of cavalry, artillery, and infantry, was presumably held in reserve four kilometers north of Kaluz in the Bilia Rudskamu Rayon (sic).
- F. Goy-Tapeh: Fifth Company from an unidentified MGB infantry battalion, as a frontier guard unit.
- 3. Three days before the replacement ceremonies, officers were sent from Lenkoran to their new posts, where they were briefed on local conditions by the officers whom they replaced. After the briefing, the former officers left with their troops and the replacement guards arrived to assume duty. The old officers had no contact with the new troops, nor were the new troops allowed to converse with the departing troops.
- 4. Upon arrival at their posts, the new troops received indoctrination lectures, in which they were urged to carry out their duties with vigilance and to be wary of their Iranian neighbors. In some instances, the troops were told that "American Imperialists" were throughout the frontier area, that Iran was a large country which menaced the Soviet Union's southern boundaries, and that the Iranian people were pro-Soviet at heart, but were at the mercy of their reactionary government.
- 5. Estimates of the average age of the replacement troops in this area ranged from 19 to 22. Most of the troops appeared to be of Great Russian ethnic stock. The ratio of Caucasian or Central Asiatic troops to Great Russian troops appears to be about three to 100 in favor of the latter. The higher echelon positions are held almost entirely by officers of Great Russian ethnic stock.
- 6. Each Soviet patrol soldier was armed with three hand grenades, one rifle, and one automatic rifle which was similar to the automatic rifles used by the Iranian Army and by the Soviet Army which occupied Northern Iran between 1942 and 1944.

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